

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Withdrawn)
12. (Withdrawn)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for determining the metastatic potential of a cancer in an afflicted patient comprising:

- 1) a) obtaining a sample of tumor tissue from the patient;
- 2) b) obtaining a sample of normal tissue from the patient; and
- 3) c) determining the level of activated STAT-3 protein in the sample of tumor tissue and in the sample of normal tissue from the patient,

wherein an increased level of the activated STAT-3 protein in the tumor tissue as compared to the ~~control~~ normal tissue indicates an increased metastatic potential of said tumor.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~11, 12 or~~ 13 wherein determining the level of activated STAT-3 protein comprises determining the relative level of phosphorylated STAT-3 protein.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15 wherein the level of phosphorylated STAT-3 protein is determined by contacting the sample with an antibody which binds said phosphorylated STAT-3 protein.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)